

House File 2418 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2418
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2099)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to social studies instruction in public schools
2 and including applicability provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 11.6, subsection 1, paragraph a,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) Except for entities organized under [chapter 28E](#) having
4 gross receipts of one hundred thousand dollars or less in a
5 fiscal year, the financial condition and transactions of all
6 government subdivisions shall be audited annually, except
7 that cities having a population of less than two thousand
8 and budgeted gross expenditures of one million dollars or
9 more in a fiscal year shall be subject to a required fiscal
10 year examination for that fiscal year according to procedures
11 established by the office of auditor of state, and cities
12 having a population of less than two thousand and budgeted
13 gross expenditures of less than one million dollars in a fiscal
14 year shall be subject to periodic examination by the auditor
15 of state according to procedures established by the auditor
16 of state, and may be examined as otherwise provided in this
17 section. However, a city having a population of less than two
18 thousand and budgeted gross expenditures of one million dollars
19 or more in a fiscal year shall not be subject to a required
20 fiscal year examination until the city has two consecutive
21 years of budgeted gross expenditures of one million dollars
22 or more in both fiscal years, and such examination shall be
23 conducted during the second of such fiscal years. A city
24 meeting the requirements for a periodic examination shall be
25 subject to an examination under [this section](#) at least once
26 during an eight-year period at a time determined by the auditor
27 of state. The audit of school districts shall include an audit
28 of all school funds including categorical funding provided by
29 the state, the certified annual financial report, the certified
30 enrollment as provided in [section 257.6](#), supplementary
31 weighting as provided in [section 257.11](#), the revenues and
32 expenditures of any nonprofit school organization established
33 pursuant to [section 279.62](#), and entrepreneurial education
34 funds established pursuant to [section 298A.15](#). Differences in
35 certified enrollment shall be reported to the department of

1 management. The audit of school districts shall include at a
 2 minimum a determination that the laws of the state are being
 3 followed, including section 256.11, subsection 4A, and section
 4 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b", that categorical funding
 5 is not used to supplant other funding except as otherwise
 6 provided, that supplementary weighting is pursuant to an
 7 eligible sharing condition, and that postsecondary courses
 8 provided in accordance with [section 257.11](#) and [chapter 261E](#)
 9 supplement, rather than supplant, school district courses.
 10 The audit of a city that owns or operates a municipal utility
 11 providing local exchange services pursuant to [chapter 476](#) shall
 12 include performing tests of the city's compliance with section
 13 388.10. The audit of a city that owns or operates a municipal
 14 utility providing telecommunications services pursuant to
 15 section 388.10 shall include performing tests of the city's
 16 compliance with [section 388.10](#).

17 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, Code 2022, is amended by adding the
 18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. Social studies instruction
 20 incorporating the standards established under subsection 5,
 21 paragraph "b", shall be taught in all public schools prior to a
 22 student's completion of grade eight.

23 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
 24 2022, is amended to read as follows:

25 *b.* Five units of the social studies ~~including instruction~~
 26 ~~in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration~~
 27 ~~requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in~~
 28 ~~the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting~~
 29 ~~an absentee ballot.~~ All students enrolled in public schools
 30 shall complete a minimum of one-half unit of United States
 31 government ~~and one,~~ one-half unit of United States history
 32 and Iowa history, one-half unit of civics, and one-half unit
 33 of civil discourse. These units shall emphasize the use of
 34 interactive learning techniques and important historical
 35 documents, including the Declaration of Independence,

1 emancipation proclamation, federalist papers, and the
2 Constitution of the United States.

3 (1) The one-half unit of United States government shall
4 include the voting procedure as described in this lettered
5 paragraph and ~~section 280.9A~~. The government instruction shall
6 also include a all of the following:

7 (a) A study of the Constitution of the United States and the
8 Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an assessment
9 of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of
10 Rights.

11 (b) A study of the structure of the United States
12 government, including federalism, the separation of powers, and
13 the electoral college.

14 (2) The one-half unit of United States history and Iowa
15 history shall include a study of political and economic
16 philosophy and provide a comparative and objective analysis of
17 ideologies throughout world history, including but not limited
18 to capitalism, republicanism, democracy, socialism, communism,
19 totalitarianism, and fascism. The United States history
20 and Iowa history instruction shall also include examples
21 of political freedoms and economic development under these
22 ideologies and include first-person accounts.

23 (3) The one-half unit of civics shall include instruction
24 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration
25 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in
26 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting
27 an absentee ballot.

28 (4) The one-half unit of civil discourse shall include
29 but is not limited to instruction in how to contact elected
30 officials and how to disagree and form arguments.

31 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to students
32 entering grade one on or after July 1, 2024:

33 The section of this Act enacting section 256.11, subsection
34 4A.

35 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to students

1 entering grade nine on or after July 1, 2024:

2 The section of this Act amending section 256.11, subsection
3 5, paragraph "b".

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill relates to social studies instruction in public
8 schools.

9 Under current law, the educational program established
10 pursuant to Code section 256.11 is required to include, in
11 grades 9 through 12, five units of social studies. The bill
12 requires that all students enrolled in public schools in
13 these grades complete a minimum of one-half unit of United
14 States government, one-half unit of United States history
15 and Iowa history, one-half unit of civics, and one-half unit
16 of civil discourse. The bill provides that this requirement
17 applies to students entering grade nine on or after July 1,
18 2024. The bill provides that the one-half unit of United
19 States government shall include a study of the Constitution
20 of the United States and the structure of the United States
21 government. The bill provides that the one-half unit of
22 United States history and Iowa history shall include a study
23 of political and economic philosophy and provide a comparative
24 and objective analysis of other ideologies throughout world
25 history. Additionally, the bill provides that the one-half
26 unit of civics shall include instruction in voting statutes
27 and procedures. The bill also provides that the one-half unit
28 of civil discourse shall include instruction in how to contact
29 elected officials and how to disagree and form arguments. The
30 bill provides that social studies instruction incorporating
31 these standards shall be taught in all public schools prior to
32 a student's completion of grade eight. The bill also provides
33 that this requirement applies to students entering grade one on
34 or after July 1, 2024.

35 Under current law, school districts are required to be

1 audited annually to determine, in part, that the laws of the
2 state are being followed. The bill incorporates into this
3 requirement that the school districts be audited annually to
4 determine that the requirements related to social studies
5 instruction are being followed. Current law also requires that
6 a written report of an audit or examination shall be provided
7 to the school district, filed with the auditor, and be open to
8 public inspection.